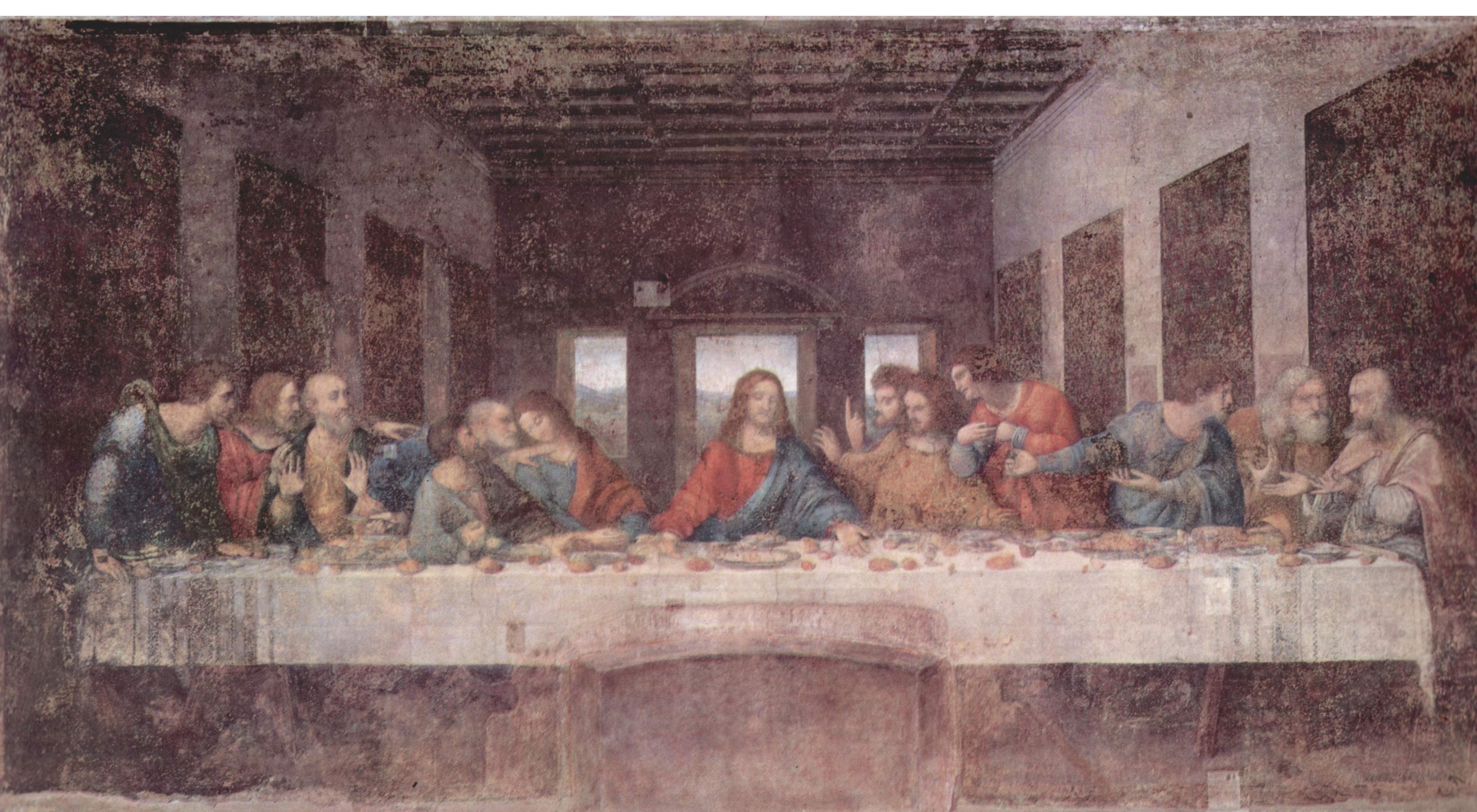


GOSPEL OF LIFE

"Masterpieces of Faith"
Selected Scriptures







It's the combination of WHAT you know about the Lord and the APPLICATION of pressure in your life that causes spiritual growth in your faith.

Pressure is the key element because it is in these life circumstances where we are challenged to fully trust in the Lord for answers and solutions.

In the cases we have before us today the pressure is in the form of desperation for healing.

3 Amazing qualities of great faith in Jesus

1. Great Faith takes God at His Word: The Centurion understood the spiritual authority of Jesus to heal at His Word.

- The centurion fully understood that Jesus' healing power was not some sort of magic trick that required the magician's presence. Instead he knew Jesus had true *authority*, and could command things to be done and completed outside His immediate presence.
- The centurion showed great faith in Jesus' word. He understood that Jesus can heal with His word just as easily as with a touch.
- The centurion also knew about the military chain of command, and how the orders of one in authority were unquestioningly obeyed and carried out. "This means that the centurion's words presuppose an understanding of the Roman military system... A footsoldier who disobeyed wouldn't be defying a mere centurion but the emperor, Rome itself, with all imperial majesty and might."

-D. A. Carson

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2. Great Faith Perseveres in Prayer: The Canaanite woman pleaded with Jesus for her demon-possessed daughter.
3. Great Faith hopes in Jesus: A woman with the issue of blood is healed because of her desperate faith in Jesus.